



Friday  
August 12,  
2011

# Weekly Views

The Indiana Veterans Education and Transition (INVET) Legion Post #311 at the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility (IREF) hosted a greeting card sale to raise funds to support the Post's goals and mission. Over 30 different varieties of cards were made available for purchase by the residents for \$1.25 each. The greeting card sale marks the Post's first ongoing fundraiser at IREF.

Branchville Correctional Facility Superintendent Gil Peters announced the promotions of Captain Shannan Sturgeon to Unit Team Manager, Sergeant Alan Blum to Lieutenant, Sergeant Nathan Hoffman to Lieutenant, and Leslie Durham to Plant Foreman 1. Congratulations all!

The Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility Choir took a road trip to the Auburn Presbyterian Church for an outdoor concert and church service. This capped off a three day celebration of the church's 100th Anniversary.

Miami Correctional Facility's (MCF) American Legion Post #555 conducted a swearing in ceremony for its officers. Jerry Stevens, the Fifth District Regional Commander, officiated the ceremony. MCF's legion is ranked 12th overall in the entire state for membership, according to Stevens. Stevens said he was impressed with MCF's uniform and the professional way the meeting was run.

Three visitors from Japan came to the Indiana Women's Prison to observe an Indiana Canine Assistance Network (ICAN) training session. They are conducting research about service dogs in the United States and are hoping to utilize the information to improve the training and use of service dogs in Japan.

Therapeutic Community (TC) staff at Westville Correctional Facility hosted their annual "TC field day." All 436 TC offenders spent the day enjoying picnic. Westville staff served hamburgers, hot dogs and watermelon, while the offenders participated in organized sporting events. The field days are an effort promoted by the TC's Creative Energy department, which teaches and encourages offenders to replace the time spent using drugs with positive activity.

The offender farmers at the Indiana State Prison picked 355 pounds of produce from the organic garden at the prison, and donated the goods to Stepping Stone Shelter, a not for profit organization.

The Indiana State Fair came to Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) this week. Tastes of the fairgrounds were provided to staff compliments of the Employee Appreciation Committee. Committee members and custody staff served up cotton candy, popcorn, and ice cream on all shifts in appreciation of the blue ribbon job WVCF staffers do each day!

The PLUS program at the Putnamville Correctional Facility recently donated \$1000 to various organizations. Assistant Superintendent Craig Grage, Case Manager Kumaran and Case Worker Schuetz presented Putnam County Library representatives with a \$500 check for their children's reading program "Imaginary Books". The donation will enable 20 children to receive one book per month for a period of a year. A donation of \$500 was also awarded to the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, an organization that provides public education and training resources to eliminate domestic violence.



Carol Kornas from Castleton United Methodist Church donated 100 backpacks with school supplies to the Indiana Women's Prison. The backpacks were donated to the facility for the women to give to their children. (see photo left)

The Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) recently presented a check in the amount of \$514.45 to Special Olympics Indiana. The monetary gift was made possible by donations from PCF employees and the facility's PLUS Program.

Indiana State Prison Superintendent William K. Wilson announced with great pleasure the promotion of two staff members. Nicole Kachmar and Joshua Brooks were recently promoted to Correctional Caseworker 4. "I congratulated both Ms. Kachmar and Mr. Brooks. I wish them well and look forward to their continued success with the Indiana State Prison," stated Superintendent Wilson.

Congratulations to the Plainfield Correctional Complex (RDC/IYC) E-Squad team on their 1st place finish in the Public Safety Division at the Fed Ex Plane Pull Challenge for Special Olympics Indiana! The team completed the pull in 6.601 seconds, and raised a total of \$1,459.14! Outstanding job!!

Volunteer Reverend Ray Nelson staff Minister New Life Tabernacle and members of his congregation visited Chain O' Lakes for a series of softball and fellowship. Members from the church were assigned as team captains to choose sides. Plans are being made for another game and possible cook out.

Indiana State Prison successfully passed the Department's mock audit for re-accreditation with the American Correctional Association. The prison scored a perfect 100 percent on mandatory standards and a 99.3 percent on non-mandatory national standards.